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The book is almost a model. It is conspicuous for candor and good judgment, and combines acute analysis with painstaking research.

H. H. POWERS.

The Life and Times of James the First, the Conqueror, King of Aragon, etc. By F. DARWIN SWIFT, B. A., formerly scholar of Queens College, Oxford. Pp. xx, 311. Price, \$3.25. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

This is an historical monograph of a kind which, unfortunately, is much less common in English than it ought to be. Mr. Swift has divided his work into two parts, Political History and Social History, an arrangement which necessarily involves some repetition yet which is justified in this instance. Owing to the uncritical character of previous accounts in English of this period of Spanish history, the author's first task was to discover and present in succinct form what actually happened during the life of James. This he has done in his first part. A more appropriate title for this division of the work would have been "The Annals of the Reign of James I." reserving for Part II the title Political and Social Institutions.

Part I, like all annals, is very dry reading, but the critical care that has been expended upon it, and the thorough study of the sources printed and unprinted upon which it is based, give it a permanent value as a work of reference.

The six chapters of Part II discuss the Administrative System and Legislation of James, Finance, Commerce, the Church, the Jews and Saracens, Literature, Science and Art. There are also several appendices, a small collection of documents, a good index and a very serviceable Bibliography. In the latter, however, one is surprised to find Condé's utterly untrustworthy *Histoire de la Domination des Arabes et des Maures en Espagne* and to miss Dozy's *Recherches* and Mueller's *Der Islam im Morgen- und Abendland*. The student of economic history will turn first to the chapter on "Revenues and Commerce." It is the best collection of facts accessible in English on the trade and industry of the Eastern Mediterranean peoples in this period, yet it is not so complete as it might be. In the literature of the subject Mr. Swift has overlooked Heyd's *Geschichte des Levant-handels* and Ebert's *Quellenforschungen aus der Geschichte Spaniens* of which the chapter: *Zur Verfassungsgeschichte der Stadt Barcelona im Mittelalter* is important for his purpose. James' Navigation Law of 1227 is described as restricting the traffic with Egypt to "ships of Barcelona alone to the special exclusion of foreign vessels," but reference to the proclamation as given in Capmany II, p. 11 (the

reference is misprinted p. 4) shows that the law provided merely that when Barcelona vessels were in port freight must be shipped by them. In the absence of Barcelona vessels, those of other cities might be employed.

The appendix on "The Currency" is disappointing. It should have contained a discussion of the value of the coins mentioned in the body of the work. As it is, Mr. Swift falls into a serious error, p. 45, in estimating the value of a ransom. He rates the besant at 4*d*. The gold besant was worth about the same as the gold florin (about \$2.40) and the silver besant is estimated by Muratori at two-thirds that amount or about \$1.60. Capmany approved a valuation of the silver besant in 1276 at 3½ *sol*s. Taking Mr. Swift's valuation of the *sol* at 1*s* 5*d* we get \$1.20 for the value of a besant, or at least fifteen times greater than Mr. Swift's estimate. The map should have represented Eastern Spain, as it was in James' time, not as it is to-day. Most of these minor defects can be easily corrected in a second edition and should not be unduly emphasized. The work as a whole commands respect and confidence by the thoroughness of the research and the solidity of the scholarship which its pages reveal. It is to be hoped that Mr. Swift will continue his work in Mediæval Spanish History for English historical literature in that field is singularly deficient.

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Geschichte des antiken Kommunismus und Socialismus. By ROBERT TÖHLMAUN. I. Band. München: Beck, 1893.

The title of this book does not correspond strictly to the contents, which offer more than that would indicate. We have to do here not simply with an historical, but also with a politico-social work, in which the historical foundation serves merely as the occasion for developing the author's philosophical and politico-social views. The author does this by continually bringing the socialistic and communistic theories of antiquity and modern times into juxtaposition, and comparing them.

The first chapter, in which he criticises the theories and traditions of the original communism of the older Greek States, is very interesting. All the information from the old writers, as well as the opinions of modern investigators, relative thereto, are made to pass in review before him; and he arrives at the conclusion that the supposed primitive communism in no case proves itself to be historically worthy of credence. In fact, the hypotheses of primitive communism are "phenomena of the human mind, which are accustomed to manifest themselves spontaneously as the logical consequence of certain human experiences, stimulating to the formation of new ideas. In all times